Data-driven identification of fixed expressions and their modifiability

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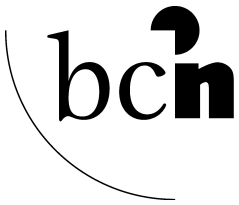

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Beoordelingscommissie:	Prof. J. Hoeksema Prof. J. Odijk Prof. I. Sag

Preface

During the years that I spent as a PhD student at the Alfa-Informatica department I met many people to whom I am truly grateful and who had a major impact on my thesis, my life, or both.

This thesis would never have come into being without the invaluable advice, guidance and support of my two supervisors: Gosse Bouma and Gertjan van Noord. They always found time to listen to the many difficulties I encountered along the way and discuss solutions. From countless discussions with them, I learnt a lot about scientific research, statistics, computational linguistics and (aghhh, I even have to mention them in the preface!) fixed expressions. Thank you both for your crucial input and the many corrections of former drafts. And, thank you for letting me work at my own pace and pushing me when necessary.

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Being a non-native and clumsy Dutch speaker posed difficulties to evaluate the output of my experiments. Without hesitation, Gosse Bouma, Gertjan van Noord, and Leonoor van der Beek, stoically assessed long lists of (sometimes nonsensical) expressions and always gave me constructive feedback. I'm also grateful to Robbert Prins, Henny Klein, Jack Hoeksema, Bart Hollebrandse and Dirk-Bart den Ouden for assessing and discussing the

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I am also indebted to the members of my reading committee: Jack Hoeksema, Jan Odijk and Ivan Sag. They corrected various mistakes in a previous manuscript and made detailed and helpful suggestions for improvement that (to some extent) were incorporated in this book. None of the above is of course responsible for how the thesis turned out in the end; the remaining mistakes or inaccuracies are entirely my own responsibility.

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